

14

A
R E P O R T
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE
OF
SUGAR-REFINERS,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF
EFFECTING A REDUCTION IN THE HIGH PRICES
OF
SUGAR,
BY LOWERING THE
BOUNTY ON REFINED SUGAR EXPORTED,
AND
CORRECTING THE EVILS
OF THE
WEST-INDIA MONOPOLY.

L O N D O N:
PRINTED BY S. COUCHMAN, THROGMORTON-STREET.

M DCC XCII.

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WEST-INDIA MONOPOLY
OF THE
CORRECTING THE LEVELS
BY LOWERING THE
COUNTY ON REFINED SUGAR EXPORTED
SUGAR

PRINTED BY S. COUCHMAN, THROCKMORTON STREET.
LONDON.
MDCCLXII.

[Printed in Great Britain]

R E P O R T.

THE exorbitant prices of Sugar having been for a considerable time the subject of very general complaint, and the Resolutions adopted by the Lords of the Committee of Council, now before Parliament, being in no respect calculated to give either the Public or the Manufacturer relief: the Committee of Sugar-Refiners think it incumbent on them to report their proceedings, and give extracts of the Memorials they have delivered to his Majesty's Ministers for correcting the evils of the West-India Monopoly; the effects of which have been the sole cause of the excessive prices.

The extraordinary Bounty on the Exportation of Refined Sugar being one of the defects of that system, and a proposition being brought into Parliament last session, giving a further encouragement of 5s. 4d. per Cwt. the Chancellor of the Exchequer was immediately apprised of the impropriety of the measure; and much pains were taken to trace the sources of the Drawbacks and Bounties on Sugar, and a statement was presented to him, in order to give the most complete elucidation of the subject; of which the following is an extract.

CALCULATIONS

CALCULATIONS and OBSERVATIONS on the DUTIES and
DRAWBACKS on SUGAR, presented to the Right Hon.
WILLIAM PITT, in December 1790.

" PRESUMING it never could be the policy or intention of
" government, even in the infant state of the Sugar Refinery, to
" allow the manufactured articles to draw back more than the Duty
" paid on the raw material; it may not be improper to state, in as con-
" cise a manner as possible, how the matter of Drawback stood from
" the first.

" By the 12th of CHARLES II. Brown Muscovado Su-
" gar paid a Duty, after deducting discount on rate £1 8 6 per ton.

" By the 9th and 10th of WILLIAM and MARY, new
" subsidy, a further Duty, deducting discount, $\begin{array}{r} \text{£} 1 \quad 8 \quad 6 \\ \hline \text{£} 2 \quad 17 \quad 0 \end{array}$

" and by the same act of WILLIAM and MARY, a Drawback was al-
" lowed on Refined Sugar indiscriminately* of £3 0 0 per ton.

" In the mode of settling which Drawback, it appears plainly, that
" the one-twentieth waste in the calculation of produce, was allowed
" the Refiner; and Molasses being left without its proportion of Draw-
" back, was deemed a sufficient security to the revenue.—The pro-
" portions at an early period, of the produce from one Cwt. of Raw
" Sugar when refined, so prove it, viz.

" Duty paid on Raw, per ton..... $\text{£} 2 \quad 17 \quad 0$
" Drawb. on $\begin{cases} \frac{2}{20}, \text{ or } 9 \text{ Cwt. Loaves and Lumps, at } 3\text{s. } 1 \quad 7 \quad 0 \\ \frac{5}{20}, \text{ or } 5 \text{ Cwt. Bastard Sugar, at } 3\text{s. } 0 \quad 15 \quad 0 \end{cases}$
 $\begin{array}{r} \hline 2 \quad 2 \quad 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$

In favour of Government, $\text{£} 0 \quad 15 \quad 0$

* The same Drawback was allowed on Bastard Sugar at that period as on Loaf and
Lump Sugar.

" By

“ By the 2d and 3d of ANNE, a further subsidy was granted, being
 “ one-third of that granted to WILLIAM and MARY; and by the same
 “ act a further Drawback of 1s. per Cwt. was allowed on Refined Su-
 “ gar, making one-third of that allowed on *both* the former subsidies,
 “ instead of the proportion one-sixth.

DUTY.			DRAWBACK.		
£1	8	6 old Subsidy,	9 Cwt. at 4s.	£1	16 0
1	8	6 new ditto.	5 Cwt. at 4s.	1	0 0
0	9	6 one-third ditto.			
3	6	6 per Ton.			£2 16 0
2	16	0 Drawback.			

£0 10 6 in *favour* of Government.

“ In this form the Duties and Drawbacks stood from the year 1703
 “ to 1733, the 6th of GEO. II. wherein a SPECIOUS ACT was passed,
 “ granting to his Majesty certain Duties on Rum, Spirits, Sugar, &c.
 “ brought *from* any colonies or plantations in America, *not in* posses-
 “ sion of his Majesty, *to those* colonies or plantations in America, that
 “ were or hereafter might *be in* possession of his Majesty. And after
 “ reciting the clause for Raw Sugar drawing back on Export, the
 “ whole of the Duty paid on Importation into Great-Britain (*to annul*
 “ *which not any Act had passed*) a further Drawback of 2s. per Cwt.
 “ was allowed on *Refined Sugar exported from this country*, though the
 “ Duty laid was only on such Sugars as were *imported into the colonies!*
 “ and however paradoxical it may appear, this addition of Drawback
 “ was the beginning of EVIL to the REVENUE, the PUBLIC, and
 “ the REFINERY, viz.

DRAWBACK.		
9 Cwt. at 6s.	£2	14 0
5 Cwt. at 6s.	1	10 0
	4	4 0
Deduct Duty as before.....	3	6 6 per Ton.

Which instead of 10s. 6d. in *favour*, made 0 17 6 *against* the Revenue.

" With this advantage, the West-India Planters and Merchants
 " flourished, although in the year 1733-4 the average price of Raw
 " Sugars was 13s. 6d. per Cwt. for fourteen years elapsed before any
 " further Drawback was allowed, and then, in consequence of a fur-
 " ther subsidy, without discount, granted in the 21st of GEO. II. viz.

DUTY.			DRAWBACK.		
Old Subsidy	£1	8 6	9 Cwt. at 9s. £4	1	0
New Subsidy	1	8 6	5 Cwt. at 9s. 2	5	0
One-third Subsidy	0	9 6			
Subsidy 1747	1	10 0			
				6	6 0
			Deduct Duty	4	16 6
Per Ton	£4	16 6			
			Per Ton against Revenue	1	9 6

" By this may be seen the multiplication of the Evil, and its pro-
 " gression on a further Duty being granted; for in the year 1759,
 " 32d of GEO. II. a further Subsidy and Drawback took place, like
 " those of 1747, viz.

DUTY.			DRAWBACK.		
Old Subsidy	£1	8 6	9 Cwt. at 12s. £5	8	0
New Subsidy	1	8 6	5 Cwt. at 12s. 3	0	0
One-third Subsidy	0	9 6			
Subsidy 1747	1	10 0			
Subsidy 1759	1	10 0			
				8	8 0
			Deduct Duty	6	6 6
Per Ton	£6	6 6			
			Per Ton against Revenue	2	1 6

" In the 5th of his present Majesty, an alteration and a small re-
 " duction of the Drawback took place, by depriving Bastard Sugar of
 " its

" its fair proportion, and increasing that on Loaves and Lumps; Government, nevertheless, paid 1l. 15s. 8d. per Ton more than the Duty received, viz.

DRAWBACK.

9 Cwt. at 14s. 6d. £6 10 6
5 Cwt. at 6s. 4d. 1 11 8

8 2 2

Deduct Duty 6 6 6 per Ton as before.

Against Revenue 1 15 8

" And when the additional Duties took place, in the administration of Lord North, the question of Drawback was stated by the rule of three, with a very trifling alteration, viz.

9 Cwt. at 26s. £11 14 0
5 Cwt. at 11s. 8d. 2 18 4

14 12 4

Deduct Duty 12 5 8 per Ton.

£2 6 8 against the Reve-

nue, besides the increased quantity of Loaves and Lumps made, from the partial encouragement given to export that species of produce*."

The Committee in the various interviews they had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, represented the ruinous consequence of the present system of the Sugar Trade, both with

* Since that period, the proportions of Loaf and Lump Sugar from a given quantity of Raw, has been much increased by improvements in the manufactory, which operates as an increase of Bounty.

respect

respect to the Public and the Manufacturer; and in December last they drew up and presented a Memorial on the subject; of which the following is an extract.

" To the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, &c. &c.

*" The MEMORIAL of the COMMITTEE appointed by the
SUGAR-REFINERS of London;*

" SHEWETH,

" THAT when some of your Memorialists had the honour of attending you last session of parliament, on several points relative to the Sugar Trade, it was suggested that a thorough investigation of the whole of that branch of our commerce would be an object highly deserving the attention of the legislature. They had then some intention of bringing forward such information as they conceived would throw light on the subject; but as the session was far advanced, they concluded it might be advisable to postpone the matter until his Majesty's ministers were more at leisure to give it full consideration. They have regretted the delay, from a conviction that the operation of the laws, which have established a complete monopoly of the Sugar Trade, is a growing evil to this country, inasmuch as it is oppressive to the poor, cramps the spirit of industry and navigation, narrows the revenue, and is contrary to every other principle of commerce; and, as it is extremely oppressive to your Memorialists, who have been suffering for years by the decay of their once flourishing manufactory, they beg leave with the utmost deference to lay their thoughts on the subject before you, with their earnest request, that you will take the matter into serious consideration, and give such relief as its importance will be found to require.

" It

“ It may be superfluous to observe, that this country is confined
 “ wholly to the British West-India Islands for the supply of Sugar;
 “ the high duties on the importation of that article from foreign plan-
 “ tations operating as a prevention of their use : indeed, such is the
 “ interpretation of the laws with respect to France, from whence
 “ the greatest supply could be had, that Sugars from thence are to-
 “ tally prohibited *.

“ On the other hand, when foreign countries are in want of Sugars;
 “ our market is always open to them, either for Raw or Refined ;
 “ on the former of which the whole Duty is drawn back, leaving no-
 “ thing to the state ; and on the latter a Drawback is allowed, so
 “ improperly proportioned, as will ever operate against the Public,
 “ the Revenue, and the Manufacturer.

“ The principal part of the Importation of Sugar takes place
 “ in the course of about four months ; at the expiration of which
 “ time, the planters and merchants, by taking an account of the
 “ quantity arrived, and by forming calculations of what more may
 “ be expected, can ascertain with great nicety, the total quantity for
 “ the supply of the year.

“ Experience leads them to a knowledge of what will be required
 “ for home consumption, and information from foreign countries
 “ enables them to make an estimate of the probable demand from
 “ thence ; all these premises being established, they can raise the prices
 “ of the article, and feed the market without fear of competition,
 “ well knowing that the country has no means of relief ; and that the
 “ increase of the home consumption, and of the foreign demand, is
 “ greater by many thousand hogsheds per annum, than the increase
 “ of their supply.

* Some Muscovado Sugars were brought from France, before the news of an insur-
 rection in St. Domingo ; but the Merchant not being suffered to enter them at the Custom-
 House for home consumption, even at the Duty on Foreign Sugars, he was obliged to
 export them again.

" It may be observed, that in the year 1733—4, Raw Sugar was
 " sold for 18s. 6d. per Cwt. out of which it paid a Duty of 3s. 4d.
 " per Cwt. And in the year 1748—9, after the additional Duty of
 " 1s. 6d. in 1747, the average price was 24s. 4d. It appears also,
 " that for every subsequent advance of Duty the additional Drawback
 " has operated with undue advantage to the planter. However,
 " your Memorialists will not recur to such remote circumstances, to
 " shew that the country is oppressed by the operation of the Sugar
 " laws, as it will be apparent by the following statement, viz.

" A comparative View of the Import and Export of Sugar,
 " on an Average of Seven Years preceding the American
 " War, and Seven Years subsequent to the Peace, with the
 " Duties and Prices paid in the same Periods.

	Cwt.	Qr.	lb.	
" Average annual import of } Raw, from 1784 to 1790 }	1,823,096	2	9	
" Ditto from 1770 to 1776 ..	1,752,856	2	6	
	70,240	0	3	annual increase of import.
" Average annual export of } Raw, from 1784 to 1790 }	116,465	0	17	
" Ditto from 1770 to 1776 ..	208,763	2	8	
	92,298	1	19	annual decrease in export, attri- buted to the ports of Ireland being open for Sugar from the colonies direct.
" Average annual export of } Refined, from 1784 to 1790 }	108,232	1	22	
" Ditto from 1770 to 1776 ..	44,881	1	11	
	63,351	0	11	annual increase in export of Refined.

" Average

" Average annual internal } Cwt. Qr. lb.
consumption, from 1784 } 1,598,398 3 26
to 1790.....

" Ditto, from 1770 to 1776.. 1,499,211 2 13

99,187 1 11 annual increafe of internal con-
sumption.

" The Duty, payable 1784 }
to 1790, was 12s. 4d. per } £ s. d.
Cwt. which taken only on } 1,080,928 4 2
the average quantity im-
ported 1770 and 1776, is }

" The Duty, payable in 1770 }
and 1776, was 6s. 3d. $\frac{1}{8}$, } 554,340 17 8
which on the average quan-
tities imported in those }
years, is..... } 526,587 6 6 annual increafe of Duty.

" The average price from }
1784 to 1790 was 50s. }
which only, on the quan- } 4,382,141 7 8
tities imported in 1770 }
and 1776, produced to the }
planters..... }

" The average price from }
1770 and 1776 was 36s. }
which on the quantities } 3,155,141 16 0
imported in those years, }
produced to the planters.. } 1,226,999 11 8 annual increafe of price.

" Deduct increafe of Duty, }
as above..... } 526,587 6 6

" Net increafe paid per Ann. }
to the planters for the laft } £700,412 5 2
seven years..... }

" As your Memorialists have ufed their endeavours to be accurate
" in the foregoing account, they hope it will be found free of error.

" So great an advance as 14s. per Cwt. on the average price of
" the laft seven years, appears very striking, as well as the aggregate
" sum

“ sum of £700,000 per annum that the net increase amounts to ; but
 “ it would be more so if the account included the average price
 “ that prevails now, which is 81s. and 82s. and even before the late
 “ bad news from St. Domingo, was 71s. and 72.*

“ Your Memorialists have frequent information of the prices of
 “ Sugar abroad, and often observe with regret the prices far less
 “ than ours ; and even so late as October last, it appeared by sam-
 “ ples received from Bourdeaux, that such Sugars as were selling there
 “ at 37s. could not be bought here under 72s.†

“ Perhaps it may be said, that the high price of Sugar is imputable
 “ to bad crops ; but the foregoing accounts of the importation taken
 “ from the Custom-House books, evidently proves the invalidity of
 “ that argument.

“ It may also be urged, that some of the islands have suffered
 “ by hurricanes, and therefore the prices should be advanced, in
 “ order to compensate for the damages. Your Memorialists presume,
 “ such reasoning cannot be admitted ; for it is well known that losses
 “ so sustained, are only in certain districts, injuring in a partial de-
 “ gree such estates as lie in their direction. It must be readily ad-
 “ mitted, that the planters who suffer are much entitled to commiseration,
 “ however past experience may prepare them to meet such
 “ disasters ; but surely there can be no just grounds for those in the
 “ various islands, who have not been visited by such calamities, to set

* The average price of Sugars for the year 1791 may fairly be stated at 77s. per Cwt. but taking the average at 75s. only, and allowing for the additional duty of 2s. 8d. per Cwt. the net increase of price to the Planters for the year amounts to £2,657,768.

† At several periods prior to the date of this Memorial, the Refiners of London could have purchased Muscovada Sugar in the ports of France, and after paying the expences of transit and the foreign duty of 27s. 2d. could have refined and rendered them cheaper to the Public than from the Sugars of the British Colonies.—Such are the effects of the MONOPOLY and BOUNTY in conjunction.

“ up

" up their neighbours misfortunes as a plea for raising the price of
 " their Sugars.

" Although your Memorialists, in seeking relief for the Public and
 " themselves, are thus obliged to state the variety of circumstances as
 " they actually appear; they do not impute blame to the West-India
 " Planters and Merchants, for making the most of those advantages
 " which they derive from the present monopoly. It is natural for
 " individuals to look to their own immediate interests; but it is the
 " peculiar province of the Legislature to watch over that of the
 " Public.

" Your Memorialists and their constituents have very large and
 " extensive works for the Refining of Sugar, which is now brought to
 " greater perfection than in any other country; but by the operation
 " of the Sugar laws this valuable manufactory, which is so eagerly
 " coveted and cherished by the other nations of Europe, is here
 " falling to decay, many of the works being quite dismantled and
 " pulled down, others standing empty, and even those that remain are
 " unworked one-third of the year, loaded with an expence nearly
 " equal to that of full employ.

" It is far from the intentions of your Memorialists, to discourage
 " the British Sugar Plantations; on the contrary they would wish
 " that their produce might have every reasonable preference in point
 " of duty, to that of other nations. But to exclude this country to-
 " tally from extending its interests in this great article of the trade of
 " Europe, when it is evidently capable of such extention, appears to
 " your Memorialists wholly incompatible with commercial policy,
 " being, as they have before stated, a cramp to the Industry and
 " Navigation of the kingdom, as well as to the Revenue, to which
 " the importation of Foreign Sugars on moderate Duties would so
 " amply contribute. And as the importation of other crude articles,

“ such as cotton, hemp, flax, tallow, iron, &c. is encouraged, your
 “ Memorialists conceive that it is contrary to every other principle of
 “ commerce to exclude that of Raw Sugar.

“ Your Memorialists are convinced, that if the Sugar Trade was
 “ put under proper regulations, this kingdom might in a short time
 “ become the EMPORIUM of Sugar, and the source of ~~employment~~^{supply} for the
 “ greater part of the north of Europe. Nor do your Memorialists
 “ think that the British West-India Planters have any thing to fear
 “ from an alteration in the present narrow system; for, if their
 “ produce had a preference in the Duties of 2s. or 3s. per Cwt. on
 “ the Muscovado, and 6s. or 7s. per Cwt.* on the Clayed Sugar,
 “ besides the extra charges, such as commission, freight, insurance,
 “ &c. on Foreign Sugars, which by the best information will amount
 “ to about 4s. 6d. per Cwt. more, it is presumed that they would not
 “ have any just reason to complain.

“ The interest of the revenue in this question appears perfectly
 “ clear; for as it is not in the contemplation of your Memorialists to
 “ request any additional Drawback on the exportation of such Foreign
 “ Sugar when refined, the additional duty received on Foreign Sugars
 “ would be a net gain of many thousands per ann.

* On an application to Parliament by the Refiners in the year 1781, for the use of Prize Sugars on plantation duties, one great objection by the Planters was, the quantity of Clayed Sugars produced from the French Islands, having in Refinement a superiority over the Muscovado Sugar. The Clayed Sugars of the British Islands not having paid more Duty than the Muscovado, although the Book of Rates clearly shews they ought, the Refiners were not led to make any such distinction; but as there undoubtedly is from 10s. to 30s. $\frac{3}{4}$ Cwt. difference between the value of the Clayed and Muscovado Sugar, they have now in the prayer of their Memorial, marked that superiority, and are at a loss to account, why a larger Duty to the State, as intended by the several acts, has not been charged on the Import of Sugars Clayed in the British Islands, being partly refined, enhanced considerably in value, reduced materially in quantity, and the navigation of the country thereby greatly lessened.

“ When

" When the Legislature last year were about to grant an additional
 " Drawback of 5s. 4d. per Cwt. on the exportation of Refined Sugar,
 " it was clearly demonstrated by some of your Memorialists, that it
 " would prove an injury to the manufactory instead of an encourage-
 " ment, and that although the original intention of the Drawback on
 " Refined Sugar was avowedly for that purpose; yet if that now al-
 " lowed be continued on its present principles, it will ever operate
 " against the Revenue, the Public, and the Manufactory; further ex-
 " perience has proved the fact. And as the Public, as well as your
 " Memorialists, are much injured by a want of proper regulation in
 " the Sugar Laws, and their manufactories are marked by the pecu-
 " liar misfortune of falling to decay at a time when every other branch
 " of trade is rising in opulence and extent; your Memorialists are
 " fully persuaded that his Majesty's ministers will not remain longer
 " unmindful of this important concern, whether considered in respect
 " to themselves, the employment of shipping, to foreign commerce,
 " to the coasting and internal trade of the kingdom, the extension of
 " the revenue, or the public benefit.

" Your Memorialists do therefore pray, that Foreign Su-
 " gars be admitted in British bottoms, at a Duty of 2s. or
 " 3s. per Cwt. on the Muscovado, and 6s. or 7s. per Cwt.
 " on the Clayed, over and above what is paid on British
 " Plantation Sugar. That Sugar from the East-Indies, or
 " any part of his Majesty's dominions, be imported at the
 " same Duties, and with the same privileges as those pro-
 " duced in the British West-India islands.

" That the Drawback on the exportation of Loaf Sugar
 " be reduced from 26s. per Cwt. to 22s. per Cwt. and
 " that the Drawback of 15s. per Cwt. now allowed on
 " Bastard Sugar exported, be increased to 18s. per Cwt. at
 " the usual period for alteration in the Sugar Duties.

" That

“ That the words in the oath on exportation, ‘ from his Majesty’s plantations in America,’ be altered to, ‘ Sugars that have paid the Duties as the laws direct.’ ”

(Signed)

“ JAMES BELL,
“ ABRAHAM BRACEBRIDGE.
“ THOMAS GIBSON,
“ ROBERT WALKER,
“ PHOENIX FIRE-OFFICE, “ JOHN CRAVEN,
“ Dec. 1, 1791. “ THOMAS HODGSON.”

After the delivery of this Memorial, the West-India Planters and Merchants held frequent meetings;—insinuations were circulated with industry;—paragraphs appeared in the daily prints, upon what authority the Committee do not pretend to say, which led the Public and themselves to suppose, that at last the Planters and Merchants saw the injustice of their exactions, and that as the interference of the Legislature might be dreaded, as well as the loss in the consumption of Sugar, they were devising some agreement to reduce the prices. The Committee acknowledge they had little reliance on the sincerity of their professions; however, they waited with patience to see the event. At last, in the month of March there came out a long detail in defence of the Monopoly, entitled “ Reasons, general and particular, on the subject of certain innovations projected in the long-established laws of Great-Britain respecting Sugars.” This they delivered to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and afterwards published in the daily papers. The Committee will not make any comment on

on the weakness of the arguments in that publication, as they must be sufficiently obvious to every reader.

About the same time, a sketch of a plan for regulating the prices of Refined Sugar, without any reference to those of Raw Sugar, was communicated by the Planters and Merchants to the Refiners, the object of which was evidently calculated to embarrass the Manufacturers, and delude the Public into a belief that it would reduce the prices. The Committee upon this, thought it their duty to draw up and present another Memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of which the following is an extract.

“ To the Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, &c. &c.

*“ The MEMORIAL of the COMMITTEE appointed by the
SUGAR-REFINERS of London;*

“ SHEWETH,

*“ THAT your Memorialists have at various times since the year
“ 1790, humbly represented to you the evils and mischiefs this
“ country and its revenue would suffer, by a continuance of the
“ present system on which the Sugar Trade is carried on. That when
“ it was proposed last session of parliament to grant an additional
“ Drawback of 5s. 4d. per Cwt. on Refined Sugar exported, they
“ immediately apprized you of the danger, and shewed that it would
“ be so much lost to the Revenue, a discouragement to the Manufac-
“ turer, and a means of raising the price to the Home-Consumer;
“ the Drawback being already more than the article is entitled to :
“ the measure was accordingly dropt ; and experience has now proved
“ that the representation of your Memorialists was right.*

E

“ That

" That in their Memorial which they had the honour to present to
 " you in December 1791, they stated pretty much at large the op-
 " pressive tendency of the West-India monopoly of Sugar, and the
 " powers which the monopolists had over the Public, to exact the
 " most exorbitant prices for that necessary article.

" The fact is now illustrated by experience, for although the prices
 " of Sugar were raised beyond all precedent in times of peace, pre-
 " vious to the insurrection in St. Domingo; no sooner was that event
 " known and confirmed, than it was immediately turned to their ad-
 " vantage, and the disasters of their neighbours became a source of
 " profit: whereas, if similar calamities were to befall any of our
 " colonies, the monopoly would be set up as a bar against our deriving
 " any supply of Sugar of foreign growth.

" The monopolists have now nearly sold off their old crop, in order
 " to prepare for the new; your Memorialists have been compelled to
 " comply with their terms for the supply of their manufactories,
 " which when once set to work must go on for several months* before
 " they can be stopped, and they now have the residue of the produce
 " under process of manufacture on their floors, at prices which some
 " of your Memorialists shudder to think of. Thus are your Memo-
 " rialists and their constituents forced to stand in the face of the
 " people†, to hand to them an article, the enormous prices of which

* Hence the great mischiefs that arise to the Refiner, whose heavy expences when un-
 employed, ever urges him to work his manufactory, if only with a prospect of gaining
 even a part of those expences, trusting frequently to chance for a profit: for the Planters
 and Merchants from a knowledge of the increased internal consumption, the evident ad-
 vantage to them by the Bounty on Exportation, and their security by the monopoly, feed
 the market in such quantities and at such prices as they think proper.

† The lower orders of people have unjustly imagined the Refiners were the cause of the
 high prices; for at some fires which lately happened at Sugar-Houses, they exclaimed with
 horrid imprecations against the firemen and others, for giving any assistance in saving the
 property.

" are

" are reprobated and execrated by all ranks, except the West-India
 " interest.

" Your Memorialists were in hopes, that as the baneful effects of
 " this monopoly is now the subject of such general complaint, and its
 " injustice so obvious, the Planters and Merchants would have ac-
 " quiesced in such equitable measures as might be devised to give the
 " country relief. But on their sending yesterday to invite a deputation
 " of your Memorialists to attend a conference with their Committee,
 " they were much disappointed to find them only projecting schemes
 " for partial and temporary remedies, to an evil that will not cure,
 " without the application of what they deem an *innovation* of their
 " rights.

" It is far from the intention of your Memorialists to do any in-
 " justice to the West-India Planters and Merchants; on the contrary,
 " their constant language has been to give them every reasonable pre-
 " ference and encouragement: they therefore hope that no blame will
 " be imputed to your Memorialists for endeavouring to free themselves
 " and the Public from the fetters of a monopoly, the claim to which
 " they conceive is not founded on any law* or right whatever.

" Calculations are now held out, endeavouring to shew that there
 " will be a great increase in the ensuing year's crops, and calculations
 " of increased crops in foreign colonies are even attempted: but the
 " slightest inquiry and experience will prove, that as they cannot be
 " founded on any data at this season, they are only the offspring of
 " imagination, and cannot be depended on.

" Various schemes have been mentioned for modifying the present
 " system of the Sugar Trade, but they all appear extremely defective
 " and partial; and your Memorialists have not heard any reasons to

* The "Reasons, general and particular," of the West-India Planters and Merchants,
 confess it only an *implied Compact*.

induce

" induce them to alter the sentiments of their Memorial of December
 " last; to which, with the utmost deference and submission to your
 " superior judgment, they request your attention.

" The constitutional interference of the people remains in suspense,
 " their eyes are now turned to the decision of this great question for
 " the improvement and extension of our navigation and commerce;
 " and your Memorialists have the utmost reliance that nothing will
 " deter you from advising the Legislature to extricate the country
 " from this monopoly, which is so destructive to its true interests;
 " however opulent and powerful the individuals may be who oppose.

(Signed)

" JAMES BELL,
 " ABRAHAM BRACEBRIDGE.
 " JOHN CRAVEN,
 " THOMAS HODGSON.
 " ROBERT WALKER."

" PHOENIX FIRE-OFFICE,
 " March 10, 1792."

After the delivery of the foregoing Memorial, the Committee had a long conference with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and also another by appointment on the 23d, at which Mr. DUNDAS was present; and from what passed at those interviews, and the great attention that was always paid to their representations, the Committee were led to believe that some effectual measures would be adopted, to give the necessary relief; but on the 28th of March, the Chairman of the Committee received the following note from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

" Mr. PITT presents his compliments to Mr. BELL, and desires to
 " acquaint him that he will receive a note from Lord HAWKESBURY,
 " requesting the favour of seeing him and the Committee of Sugar-
 " Refiners, on Friday next, at twelve o'clock, at the Board of Trade.

" DOWNING-STREET,
 " Wednesday, March 28, 1792."

Soon

Soon after the receipt of this note, the Chairman received the following letter.

"OFFICE of COMMITTEE of PRIVY-COUNCIL for TRADE,

"WHITEHALL, March 28, 1792.

"S I R,

"I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, to desire that you and the Committee of Sugar-Refiners, will be pleased to attend a meeting of their Lordships, appointed to be held at this Office, on Friday next, at twelve o'clock,

"I am,

"S I R,

"Your most obedient humble Servant,

"W. FAWKENER."

"Mr. BELL,

"Cecil-Street.

The Committee accordingly attended the Lords of Council on the 30th of March.

PRESENT.

LORD CHANCELLOR,

LORD HAWKESBURY, President,

Mr. PITT,

Mr. DUNDAS,

Mr. RYDER.

And here the Committee would gladly draw a veil over an interview, which has left very unfavourable impressions on

F

their

their minds, but in justice to themselves and their constituents, they feel a necessity to relate, though reluctantly, that their reception was not such as a Commercial Body had a right to expect, and very different from the interviews they had been accustomed to have with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who at all times had honored them with the utmost politeness and attention.

Conceiving that the Board of Privy-Council were constituted for impartially investigating all matters relative to trade and commerce, the Committee attended with full expectation of having a candid inquiry into the subject of their complaints; but instead of those points being discussed, to which their Memorials and Representations had gone, and which from the manner of the Committee's introduction to the Board, it was reasonable to conclude they were in possession of;—instead of being examined as to the authenticity of the information they had brought forward, and the proofs of the accuracy of their statements;—instead of being called to explain any part of their reasoning, or being consulted as to their interests in the subject under consideration;—they were questioned on matters trivial and irrelevant; some of which it was not in their power immediately to answer, and seemed formed to suit a pre-determined plan; the propositions of which were at last communicated. Astonished at their contents, the Committee expressed their entire disapprobation of measures so futile and inapplicable as to the public relief, and so arbitrary and ruinous to the manufactory; shewing, in a variety of arguments, the oppressive consequences that would ensue. After obtaining a promise that the questions their Lordships wished a reply to, might be stated in writing, and a copy of the propositions

propositions sent also, they were desired to attend again on the Monday following, and then retired.

In the evening the Committee received the following letter and its contents.

" OFFICE of COMMITTEE of PRIVY COUNCIL for TRADE,
" WHITEHALL, March 30, 1792.

" S I R,

" I herewith enclose you a paper containing the Propositions stated
" to you and the Committee of Sugar-Refiners this morning, when
" you attended the Committee of Trade, and likewise the Questions
" put to you by their Lordships.

" I am,

" S I R,

" Your most obedient humble Servant,

" W. FAWKENER."

" JAMES BELL, Esq.

" The Propositions of the Privy Council for Trade.

" THE exportation of Sugar, the produce of the British planta-
" tions, in its raw or refined state, to cease, except to Ireland and
" other British dominions, whenever the price of Muscovado Sugar
" shall exceed 65s. the Cwt. including the present Duty, or 50s. the
" Cwt. exclusive of the present Duty.

" This prohibition to continue for a limited time, that is to say,
" for the term of three or four months, as may be judged most
" advisable.

" The

" The price to be regulated by the price of Muscovado Sugar, in
 " London only, to be taken in the following manner :—The Sworn
 " Sugar-Brokers to give in weekly upon oath, to the Clerk of the
 " Grocers Company, an account of the quantities of Sugar sold by
 " each of them during the preceding week, with the prices for which
 " each quantity sold, and the average of each week to be formed
 " upon compound ratio of the quantities and prices so given in ; a
 " general average to be struck by the said Clerk of the last six weeks
 " of the before-mentioned averages, in the same manner as with re-
 " spect to Corn.

" This general average to regulate the exportation of Sugar during
 " the ensuing period of three or four months : a fresh general average,
 " is likewise to be struck at the end of every such future period for
 " regulating the exportation in the following period.

" The weekly average price to be published in the London
 " Gazette.

" No licence to be granted for allowing the direct transportation of
 " Sugar from the British plantations to foreign countries in Europe,
 " according to the present laws, during the time that Sugar, the pro-
 " duce of the British plantations, is prohibited to be exported from
 " Great-Britain.

" Sugar and Coffee, the produce of any country out of Europe, to
 " be allowed, on its importation into Great-Britain in British ships,
 " to be warehoused without payment of Duty, in like manner as
 " Tobacco and Corn ; but at the expence of the importer, and to be
 " re-exported without payment of Duty, in like manner as the articles
 " before mentioned ; if taken out for Home-Consumption, to be sub-
 " ject to the present Duties. Proper regulations to be made for
 " preventing frauds ; that is, such as are in force with respect to
 " Tobacco, as far as they are applicable to Sugar and Coffee.

" Sugar

" Sugar and Coffee to be included among the enumerated articles
 " which are allowed to be imported into the port of Nassau, in the
 " island of New Providence (one of the Bahama islands) in foreign
 " ships.

" All Sugar and Coffee imported into Great-Britain, or any of
 " the British dominions from the said port of Nassau, to be confi-
 " dered as Sugar and Coffee, the produce of foreign countries, and
 " to be subject to the same Duties and Regulations as Sugar and
 " Coffee, the produce of foreign countries are subject."

Questions by the PRIVY-COUNCIL for TRADE.

At the COUNCIL-CHAMBER, *Whitehall*,

March 30, 1792.

By the Right Hon. the LORDS of the COMMITTEE of
 COUNCIL, appointed for all Matters relating to TRADE
 and FOREIGN PLANTATIONS.

PRESENT.

LORD CHANCELLOR,

LORD HAWKESBURY, President,

Mr. PITT,

Mr. DUNDAS,

Mr. RYDER.

The Committee of the Sugar Refiners of London, consisting of the following gentlemen, Messrs. JAMES BELL, THOMAS GIBSON, ABRAHAM BRACEBRIDGE, JEREMIAH GLOVER, JOHN CRAVEN, and THOMAS HODGSON, attending, their Lordships put to them the following Questions.

First. " Supposing the price of Muscovado Sugar, to be upon an average of the different sorts in the market, 65s. the Cwt. at what price ought the several articles of Lump, Loaves, Bastard, and Molasses, to sell, allowing for all charges, and a profit of 10 per Cent. ? "

Second. " Supposing it to be the intention of Government, to propose to the Legislature, a certain price at which the Export of Sugar, or the Drawback or Bounty upon it should cease ; is it in your opinion more advisable, that such price should be regulated by the average price of Muscovado Sugar, or by the price of Sugar in Lumps ? "

After cool reflection on the propositions received, so evidently fraught with mischief, and having recently experienced the little attention paid to arguments verbally enforced ; the Committee thought it advisable to draw up and present a Memorial to their Lordships, of which the following is an extract.

" To

*To the Right Hon. the LORDS of the COMMITTEE
of COUNCIL, appointed for all Matters relating to
TRADE and FOREIGN PLANTATIONS.*

*The MEMORIAL of the COMMITTEE appointed by the
SUGAR-REFINERS of London;*

SHWETH,

*THAT in consequence of the conference which your Memo-
rialists had with your Lordships on the 30th of March, and the
communication of the propositions intended to be recommended to
the Legislature, on the Sugar Trade, as well as the questions pro-
posed to your Memorialists, they are induced to lay their senti-
ments before your Lordships, on the same principles they have
hitherto been actuated by on that subject; upon which principles
and their conduct they will make no other comment, than barely to
recapitulate to your Lordships their proceedings hitherto in this
matter.*

*So long ago as December 1790, and at several times since that
period, your Memorialists have represented to his Majesty's ministers
the bad effects of the present system on which the West-India Trade
of this country is carried on; and that the high prices of the article
of Sugar is occasioned by the West-India Monopoly being con-
tinued, without any regulation whatever to curb its evil tendency.*

*Your Memorialists, in their humble opinion, have clearly pointed
out the true causes and effects of the grievances in that system, both
in respect to the Imports and Exports of Sugar, and the improper
regulation of the Drawbacks on it in a refined state.*

And,

" And, during the last session of parliament, when it was proposed
 " to the Legislature to grant an additional Drawback of 5s. 4d. per
 " Cwt. to encourage the Exportation of Refined Sugar, your Me-
 " morialists took the earliest opportunity to represent, that it would
 " be so much completely lost to the Revenue, and be a further means
 " of raising the price on the Home-Consumers; and they demon-
 " strated this so clearly by calculations that the measure was dropt.

" Your Memorialists have laid it down as an invariable principle,
 " confirmed by experience, that the price which the Exporters give
 " for Refined Sugar, governs and regulates the price of the whole
 " that is left for Home-Consumption, however disproportioned the
 " quantities may be; and that as this is the case, a proper reduction
 " of the Drawback on Refined Sugar exported, is absolutely neces-
 " sary.

" Their representations shewed, that so long as this country is open
 " to supply foreign markets with Sugar, and not open for a supply
 " in return, when the article is wanted here, or rises to an unreason-
 " able price; the West-India monopoly has greatly the advantage of
 " the Public in every point of view.

" They therefore solicited for proper regulations in the Drawback,
 " that the Importation of Sugars from the East-Indies should be per-
 " mitted on the same Duties as those from the West, and that the
 " Importation of Foreign Sugars should be allowed on moderate Du-
 " ties, somewhat above those on Sugars from the British Plantations.

" They were not a little surpris'd, when they attended your Lord-
 " ships, to find, that instead of the propositions they had suggested for
 " the relief of the Public and themselves from the baneful effects of
 " the monopoly, a plan was communicated which they saw on the
 " very first view was pregnant with utter destruction to their manufac-
 " tory, and in no way calculated to relieve the Public. And as,
 " after

“ after more mature deliberation, they are confirmed in that opinion ;
 “ they will take the liberty to state, as briefly as they can, some of their
 “ reasons, which with great deference they submit to your Lordships
 “ attention.

“ It is proposed by your Lordships, that when the price of Mus-
 “ covado Sugar shall exceed 65s. per Cwt. on the average, the Ex-
 “ portation of Sugar, either Raw or Refined, shall be PROHIBITED.
 “ This will only restrain the powers of the monopoly over the Public
 “ when the price is beyond all measure unreasonably high ; and
 “ when it is applied, the manufacturers become the sacrifice for ex-
 “ actions on the Public, in which they cannot derive any emolu-
 “ ment, nor should they have any share of blame.

“ Your Memorialists are convinced, that the Planters can afford
 “ Raw Sugars on an average of 45s. to 47s. per Cwt. and have a
 “ very ample profit ; they are therefore of opinion, that when the
 “ prices exceed these rates, some remedy should be applied to pre-
 “ vent any considerable excess.

“ But if, when the prices exceed any given rate, a total prohibition
 “ of Exportation takes place*, the Refiner will always be liable to have
 “ his stock of Sugar under process diminished at *one stroke* the full
 “ amount of the Duty that should have been drawn back, and the Mer-
 “ chant or Planter be only liable to a very small depreciation in the
 “ price of Raw Sugar. This may be illustrated by example, viz. A
 “ Sugar-House of six pans boils in one day 180 Cwt. of Raw Sugar, and
 “ proceeds regularly for eight days in succession, called a Refining
 “ or Complement, making 1440 Cwt. These Refinings or Comple-
 “ ments multiplied by 4, give the total of his stock ; for three
 “ Refinings are almost invariably in a state of process, and the fourth
 “ either in the stoves or on sale ; so that the 1440 Cwt. multiplied

* A total prohibition of Export or suspension of Drawback would have one and the same effect.

" by 4, gives 5760 Cwt. on which by the proposed prohibitory plan,
 " or the suspension of the Drawback on Refined Sugar, the pro-
 " prietor of a fix-pan house only would be subject to a loss, viz.

On Refined, about.....	2880 Cwt. at 26s.....	£3744
On Bastard Sugar.....	1152 Cwt. at 15s.....	864
Molasses and Waste.....	1728 Cwt.	
	5760 Cwt.	£4608

" Or, take it at 15s. per Cwt. the Duty on the whole of the Sugar
 " when Raw, the loss will amount to £4320.

" Your Lordships put the following question to your Memorialists :
 " First, ' Supposing the price of Muscovado Sugar to be upon an
 " average of the different sorts in the market, 65s. per Cwt. at what
 " price ought the several articles of Lump, Loaves, Bastard, and Mo-
 " lasses to sell, allowing for all charges and a profit of 10 per Cent. ?'

" The answer to this must always be governed by circumstances,
 " and liable to change and be transposed, according to the value at
 " which the different articles sell in the Market. Your Memorialists
 " could not therefore satisfy your Lordships in that respect, without
 " making an hypothetical calculation, which they have now done to the
 " best of their judgment.

" In reply to the second question put by your Lordships, viz. ' Sup-
 " posing it to be the intention of Government to propose to the Le-
 " gislature a certain price at which the Export of Sugar, or the
 " Drawback or Bounty upon it should cease ; is it in your opinion
 " more advisable, that such price should be regulated by the average
 " price of Muscovado Sugar, or by the price of Sugar in Lumps ?'

" In the opinion of your Memorialists, no scale on Refined Sugar
 " can be applied to remedy the evil of the present high prices,
 " and

" and relieve the Public and the Manufacturer; nor on the raw
 " material *alone*; but that if a scale must be the measure resorted
 " to, they would, with all due deference to your Lordships, submit the
 " following regulating and connected scale for the gradual govern-
 " ment of the Drawback, both on Raw and Refined Sugar, regulated
 " by the advance and declension in the price of the crude article,
 " viz.

S C A L E

F O R

Regulating the Drawbacks on RAW and REFINED

S U G A R.

Raw Sugar at 50s or under, to Drawb. 15s. and Refin. Sugar, in Loaves & Lumps, 26s. od.	
Ditto.....50s. to 55s.. to Drawb. 13s. 6d.....Ditto..... 23s. 6d.	
Ditto.....55s. to 60s.. to Drawb. 12s. 6d.....Ditto..... 21s. 6d.	
Ditto.....60s. to 65s.. to Drawb. 11s. 6d.....Ditto..... 20s. od.	
Ditto.....65s. to 70s.. to Drawb. 10s. 6d.....Ditto..... 18s. 6d.	
Ditto.....70s. to 75s.. to Drawb. 10s. od.....Ditto..... 17s. 6d.	
Ditto.....75s. to 80s.. to Drawb. 9s. od.....Ditto..... 16s. od.	
Ditto.....80s. to 85s. to Drawb. 8s. od.....Ditto..... 15s. od.	

" J A M E S B E L L,

" CHAIRMAN."

" PHOENIX FIRE-OFFICE,

" APRIL 2, 1792.

On

On Monday the 2d of April the Committee attended their Lordships according to appointment, and presented their Memorial, which the President expressed himself averse to reading; alleging that the Council had been long detained on that business already*, and that they had not time to enter into the particulars; but asked, where were the answers to the questions put by the Board? The Chairman replied, they were in the body of the Memorial, and remonstrated strongly against such neglect of their representations, enforcing the necessity of attending immediately thereto, as the resolutions were to be moved in the House of Commons that day. After some further conversation the Committee were requested to withdraw whilst the Memorial was read, and in a short time they were waited upon by Mr. FAWKENER, Secretary of the Council, who informed them their Lordships had agreed not to move the resolutions till the Wednesday following, and desired to see the Committee the next day at eleven o'clock. Mr. FAWKENER was also desired by their Lordships to ask the Committee whether Duty was included in that statement of their Memorial which mentioned that Sugars could be afforded on the average of 45s. to 47s. per Cwt. to which he was answered in the affirmative.

On the day following, the Committee attended at the hour of their appointment, entered much at large into a defence of many points in their Memorial, and delivered in further

* The Planters and Merchants had long and frequent conferences with the Council, previous to the Refiners being introduced.

proof to their Lordships, viz. * They remarked in several instances the inadequacy of the propositions, to give that relief the

* The average prices of Raw Sugars taken from actual purchases for the following years were,

	s.	d.			s.	d.
1774.....	36	4	per Cwt.	} Peace Average.....	35	6
1775.....	34	0			Deduct Duty.....	6 4
1776.....	33	3				
1777.....	38	3			Net Price.....	29 2
1778.....	51	3	per Cwt.	} War Average.....	55	2
1779.....	51	6			Deduct Duty.....	11 8
1780.....	56	2				
1781.....	54	9			Net Price.....	43 6
1782.....	66	4				
1783.....	51	2				
1784.....	43	1	per Cwt.	} Peace Average.....	45	10
1785.....	41	2			Deduct Duty.....	12 4
1786.....	42	3				
1787.....	50	0				33 6
1788.....	47	6				
1789.....	51	1				
1790.....					63 2	
					Deduct Duty.....	12 4
					Net Price.....	50 10
1791—to Oct. (before the Infurrection in St. Domingo).....					72 0	
					Deduct Duty.....	15 0
					Net Price.....	57 0
1791—to Christmas.....	82s.					
Deduct Duty	15					
					Net Price.....	67 0

the Public had a right to claim; and shewed most pointedly the particular oppression on the Manufacturer. The President, however, over-ruled all reasoning against a plan, which, he said, was somewhat altered, and being now settled and agreed on with the Planters and Merchants, no further alteration could be made without their concurrence *.

The Committee were informed that a copy of those alterations should be sent them, and if the scale they had delivered in could be reduced, so as to make it less objectionable as to the number of divisions, they might call with or send it to

In the year 1781—2, great complaints were made of the high price of Sugar, the average during the war being 55s. 2d. per Cwt. and when the question for the admission of Prize Sugars was brought before Parliament, the Planters and Merchants handed about a pamphlet, generally understood to be written by Mr. ESTWICK, agent for Barbadoes, to justify the prices:—a pert, splenetic performance, which the Refiners have treated with a silent contempt, and have stored only as a future weapon against the cause it was meant to defend:—in that pamphlet it is stated, that on an average of twenty years, the prices of Raw Sugar in Jamaica had been 21s. 6d. to 23s. sterling per Cwt.

The medium of which is	22	3
Freight to Britain and charges, by the same account.....	7	8
Duty	15	0

44 11

By the Planters own account, therefore, they are enabled to sell Sugars at 45s. to 47s. per Cwt. in times of peace; but of this fact, the President of the Council must be well informed, from the proceeds of his own West-India estates.

* It may very fairly be asked, whether on a discovery for the extirpation of a certain disease, the Corporation of Surgeons would be proper persons to consult on the propriety of adopting it

the

the Board the next morning; and if they remained dissatisfied with the plan their Lordships had in contemplation to recommend to the Legislature—*relief might there be sought.*

In the evening the Committee received the altered propositions, and to their *great astonishment* found, that the high price of 65s. per Cwt. which they had so strongly remonstrated against in the former propositions, was, in those just received, INCREASED to the ENORMOUS PRICE of 75s. per Cwt. before the plan could, in the first instance, operate for the Public relief; that obnoxious part of it being thereby made worse, and no other in any respect amended*.

Second Propositions received in the Evening of the 3d of April, from the LORDS of the COUNCIL.

First. "RESOLVED, That every Sworn-Broker, buying or selling
"Brown or Muscovado Sugar, in the city of London, from and after
"the 25th day of April 1792, shall give to the Clerk of the Grocers
"Company, on or before Thursday in every week, an account of the
"quantities of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, bought or sold by him,
"and the price paid for each quantity in the preceding week; and

* The Committee were much at a loss to account for this extraordinary circumstance, till it was publicly confessed on the Exchange of London, that the increase of price was obtained for the protection of some persons who have entered into speculations both here and in the Colonies, in consequence of the high prices. Strange, indeed, if the laws of this country are to be framed for the encouragement of regraters and forestallers!!

"that

* that the said Clerk shall make up on or before the 15th day of
 " June next, from the prices of the six weeks preceding, the average
 " price of such Sugar ; and in like manner on the 15th day of October
 " next, from the prices of the six weeks then preceding ; and in like
 " manner in every succeeding year, on the 15th day of February,
 " the 15th day of June, and the 15th day of October, from the six
 " weeks preceding such days respectively."

Second. " RESOLVED, That the exportation from Great-Britain, of
 " Sugar of the British Plantations, to any country or place whatever,
 " except to Ireland, or any other British dominion, shall be prohi-
 " bited for four months, from the 15th day of June next, if the ave-
 " rage price of Brown and Muscovado Sugar, taken on the six weeks
 " preceding, shall then exceed 60s. per Cwt. exclusive of the Duty
 " of Customs ; and from the 15th day of October next, for four
 " months, if such average price, taken on the six weeks preceding,
 " shall then exceed 55s. per Cwt. exclusive of the Duty of Customs ;
 " and in like manner in every succeeding year, the exportation of
 " such Sugar, shall be prohibited as aforesaid, for four Months, from
 " the 15th day of February, the 15th day of June, and the 15th day
 " of October respectively, whenever the average price, at any of the
 " said periods, taken on the six weeks preceding, shall exceed 50s.
 " per Cwt. exclusive of the Duty of Customs."

Third. RESOLVED, That during the time the exportation from
 " Great-Britain of Sugar shall be so prohibited, it shall not be lawful
 " to grant any Licence for transporting Sugar directly from any
 " British colony or plantation to any country in Europe, belonging to
 " any foreign sovereign or state."

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the Committee apprehended from what had passed, how unavailing any future endeavour might be with the Board to whom they had been referred; they were determined not to relax in duty to their constituents, who had placed their cause into their hands, and therefore sent on the Wednesday morning the following Memorial.

*“ To the Right Hon. the LORDS of the COMMITTEE of
“ COUNCIL, appointed for all Matters relating to
“ TRADE and FOREIGN PLANTATIONS.*

*“ The Memorial of the COMMITTEE of SUGAR REFINERS of
“ London.*

“ SHEWETH,

*“ THAT your Memorialists are firmly persuaded from the resolu-
“ tions handed to them by direction of your Lordships, that the
“ regulations meant to be proposed to the Legislature, will by no
“ means relieve the Public or your Memorialists from the oppressive
“ consequences of the high Drawbacks on Raw and Refined Sugar,
“ in conjunction with the PRESENT WEST-INDIA SYSTEM.*

*“ They cannot help expressing their regret, that however strong
“ their arguments, however clear their statements, or plain their pro-
“ positions, in pointing to the remedy of the evil; they should have
“ had so little weight in stemming the torrent of that powerful interest
“ they have to oppose; and that in your Lordships latter propositions,
“ further limits should be intended to that very interest for continu-
“ ing their exactions on the Public, in addition to the power of their
“ present exclusive monopoly.*

K

“ Your

" Your Memorialists conceive themselves justified in declaring,
 " that whilst the Import of Raw Sugar is circumscribed by the existing
 " laws, and that Import not more than equal to the natural consump-
 " tion of the country at fair and equitable prices to the Planter;
 " that the Public on their part have a right by the implied compact
 " to the experiment, at least, of the Drawbacks on both Raw and Re-
 " fined Sugar, being wholly suspended on the ensuing Importation;
 " nor are your Memorialists desirous that after the 5th day of July
 " (a day named on the increase of Drawback in the 21st of his
 " present Majesty) that their suffering interests by the stocks under
 " process, should be the smallest plea against such an alteration.

" Your Memorialists conceiving from your Lordships professions,
 " that the relief of the public was the first object in view, were not a
 " little surprised in the conference they had the honour of yesterday,
 " to hear it confessed by your Lordships, there was not any objection
 " to the West-India Planter and Merchant obtaining the average
 " price of 65s. per Cwt. for the ensuing year's Import; but still more
 " astonished in perceiving by the propositions sent afterwards by your
 " Lordships to your Memorialists, that the first plan for the reduction
 " of the article to the public, should be intended to begin at the enor-
 " mous average price of 75s. per Cwt. for Raw Sugar, when the most
 " unequivocal and uncontradicted proofs had been given to your
 " Lordships, that the Planters could well afford it on an average of 45s.
 " to 47s. per Cwt. *Duty included.* Your Memorialists disclaim the
 " idea of any such regulations being of the smallest benefit to them
 " as Manufacturers, and that the measure if adopted will go solely to
 " sanction and guarantee the Planter and Merchant, at least, another
 " year in their excessive prices.

" Your Memorialists having been requested by your Lordships to
 " reduce the scale of prices they had the honour to lay before you,
 " for the gradual and effective operation on the Drawbacks, whereby
 " the Public would be placed more secure from their baneful effects,
 " they

" they have in compliance with such request, hereto subjoined one ;
 " again repeating to your Lordships, they have no objection to a fur-
 " ther reduction of the Drawbacks on the same principle, rather than
 " be subject to *a ruinous reduction at one stroke* ; being decidedly
 " of opinion, that the plan of your Lordships, puts it completely in
 " the power of the West-India Planters and Merchants to open or
 " shut the ports as their interest may direct, and will be productive of
 " the most injurious consequences to the Public and your Memori-
 " alists. They therefore shall think themselves justified in opposing
 " *so violent and arbitrary a measure*, should such an one be brought
 " forward; but as a body of men, whose properties are equally en-
 " titled to your regard and attention, with any other, however opulent,
 " they are convinced your Lordships will see the necessity of allowing
 " so complicated a manufactory a reasonable time for an arrangement
 " after the ports are shut on the Raw commodity, declaring they will
 " not object to their manufactured goods being confined to the Home-
 " Consumption an *equal time*, but at *different periods* from the Raw;
 " opening again upon that Drawback at which the ports were shut,
 " agreeable to the scale hereto submitted, and there remaining till the
 " succeeding average shall alter the same.

" Some of your Lordships having gratified your Memorialists by an
 " acknowledgment that they had communicated much and useful
 " information on this subject; they will now await its application,
 " persuaded that as the just and anxious expectations of the public on
 " this question will not be slightly passed over, your Memorialists
 " cannot fail to receive their share of relief.

(Signed)

" J A M E S B E L L,

" PHOENIX FIRE-OFFICE,

" Chairman of the Committee."

" April 4, 1792.

The

The reduced Scale requested by your Lordships.

Raw Sugar at 50s. or under, to Drawback 15s. od.	Refin. Sugar in Loaves & Lumps, 26s.
Ditto..... 50s. to 55s. to Drawback 12s. 6d.	Ditto..... 22s.
Ditto..... 55s. to 60s. to Drawback 10s. od.	Ditto..... 18s.
Ditto..... 60s. to 65s. to Drawback 8s. od.	Ditto..... 14s.

Many Members of the Trade expressing their great dissatisfaction at the Resolutions brought into the House of Commons, and pointedly exclaiming against the violence of the measure, particularly affecting the interests of a manufactory that wanted no accumulation of hardships to hasten its decay; who having in no wise contributed to the public oppression in the article of their trade, were waiting with the Public in expectation of relief:—the Committee thought it expedient to call a General Meeting of the Trade, and as expressive of the sentiments of that meeting, the Resolutions are subjoined, viz.

“ LONDON TAVERN, APRIL 16, 1792.

“ AT a numerous GENERAL MEETING of the SUGAR
“ REFINERS of LONDON, held this Day.

“ JAMES BELL, Esq. in the Chair.

“ THE CHAIRMAN reported the substance of several conferences the COMMITTEE had had with his Majesty’s Ministers,
“ and read two Memorials presented to the Lords of the Committee of
“ Council, representing that the Propositions adopted by their Lordships, and now laid before the House of Commons, would be productive
“ ductive

" ductive of the most ruinous consequences to the Manufacturer, and
 " in no respect applicable to relieve the PUBLIC from the EXOR-
 " BITANT PRICES OF SUGAR.

" Upon which the following RESOLUTIONS were passed UNA-
 " NIMOUSLY:

" RESOLVED, That the reduction of the Prices of Sugars to their
 " fair and proper level, is an object equally the interest of the Manu-
 " facturer as well as the Consumer; and that the Resolutions now be-
 " fore the House of Commons, if passed into a law, so far from
 " effecting this desirable purpose, will tend only to countenance and
 " support the West-India Planters and Merchants in their EXAC-
 " TIONS on the PUBLIC.

" RESOLVED, That the extraordinary Bounty on the Exportation
 " of Refined Sugar raises the price on the Home-Consumer, is an
 " injury to the Manufacturer (whilst the import is confined by the
 " monopoly) and drains the Revenue of many thousands annually—
 " to the sole emolument of the West-India Planters and Merchants;
 " a position so clearly proved by the COMMITTEE OF THIS
 " TRADE to his Majesty's Ministers, that the proposition for 5s. 4d.
 " per Cwt. increase of Bounty on Exportation, attempted in the last
 " session of parliament, WAS REJECTED.

" RESOLVED, That the Resolutions for opening the Ports, and al-
 " lowing a high Bounty on the Exportation of Refined Sugar for one
 " period, EVIDENTLY CALCULATED TO RAISE THE
 " PRICES—and when so raised, to shut the Ports suddenly for another
 " period, to depress them—will place the Manufacturer in particular,
 " and every person holding a stock of Sugars for the fair purposes of
 " trade, in the most perilous situation.

L RESOLVED,

“ **RESOLVED**, That as the Refinery of Sugar is complicated and
 “ intricate, as well as tedious in its process, and the necessary stock at
 “ all times large and burthensome, it would be the **HEIGHTH OF**
 “ **INJUSTICE** not to allow the Manufacturers a sufficient time to
 “ vend the refined produce of those purchases, made **UNDER** the
 “ average prices limited by the Resolutions for the Ports being
 “ shut.

“ **RESOLVED**, That as the Lords of Council were desirous of re-
 “ gulating the Drawback and Bounty on Sugar by a scale, it is the
 “ opinion of this meeting that the plan delivered by the **COMMITTEE**
 “ for the gradual reduction of Drawback and Bounty as the price of
 “ the article advances, would have an immediate tendency to relieve
 “ the Public, check the excess of Exportation, and be the most equi-
 “ table to all Parties concerned, whilst the present West-India system
 “ is continued.

“ **RESOLVED**, As an indisputable fact stated to the Lords of
 “ Council, that as Raw or Muscovado Sugar can be afforded at an
 “ average of 45s. to 47s. per Cwt. **DUTY INCLUDED**. It appears
 “ **VERY EXTRAORDINARY** to this meeting, and must also to
 “ the Public, that 75s. per Cwt. should be the first price fixed upon
 “ in the Resolutions, before any Relief is **PRETENDED** to be given
 “ the **HOME CONSUMER, WHOSE INTERESTS THEREIN**
 “ **APPEAR TO BE WHOLLY LOST SIGHT OF**; and that
 “ the lowering the Duty on Sugar from the British territories in the
 “ East-Indies (a country teeming with such abundance of the article)
 “ shall have passed entirely unnoticed!

“ **RESOLVED**, That if the fair and just representations which have
 “ been made by the Committee to his Majesty's Ministers, of the
 “ grievances that would arise from the Resolutions now under confi-
 “ deration, should not meet the attention they claim in forming the
 “ Bill about to be brought into Parliament,—that a petition against the
 same,

"same, from this body, be presented to the House of Commons,
 "praying, if necessary, to be heard by Council at the bar of their
 "Honourable House.

"RESOLVED, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the
 "COMMITTEE for their vigilant attention to the general interest
 "of the Trade, and to the CHAIRMAN for his active and exem-
 "plary conduct.

"RESOLVED, That the foregoing Resolutions be printed in the
 "public Papers, and signed by the Chairman.

"JAMES BELL, CHAIRMAN."

The Committee since the General Meeting, have been endeavouring to further the views of their constituents, and are still in active pursuit of their object; but they thought it expedient thus far to state their proceedings, that the PUBLIC also might form a true opinion of this great question in which they are most grossly imposed upon. Every odium has been industriously thrown upon the Refiner, in order to divert its right direction; but the Committee trust, the statement of facts they have now related, with the remarks subjoined, will serve to open the eyes of many, and exonerate the Manufacturers from being deemed by the Public the authors of their complaints.

They have had truth for the basis of their applications;—
 their statements have been fair and candid; and as in their
 desires

desires for relief they have been mindful of others interests as well as their own, they doubt not but they shall find that justice from the Representatives of the People, which the executive government have by the tenor of their propositions denied.

The EVIL to the Public and the Manufacturer is sufficiently apparent; the Planters and Merchants are as evidently interested in its continuance, and will, without doubt, exert their powerful influence in combating every means of redress, but with no better argument in their support, than the possession of unfair advantages, too great to be voluntarily relinquished, and to which they are not entitled on any other ground than AN IMPLIED COMPACT, now dissolved in equity, by the interest of the one party so greatly over-balancing that of the other.

PHOENIX FIRE-OFFICE,

MAY 1, 1792.

